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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

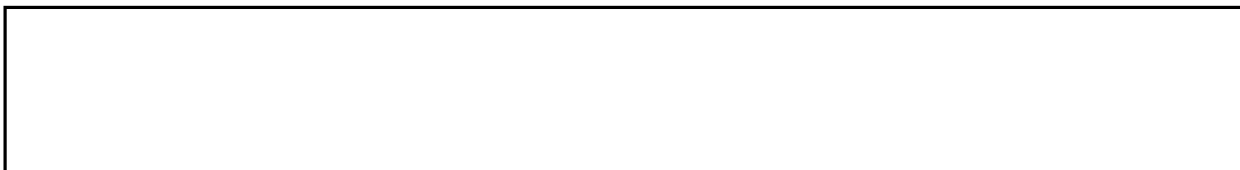
Current Soviet Role in the Middle East Crisis

Summary

Moscow appears to be escalating its diplomatic and verbal support for the Arabs now that the cease-fire seems to be holding. As part of an increasingly intensive effort to refurbish its own image and to win the diplomatic "war" in the aftermath of the Arab military defeat, Soviet propaganda attacks on Tel Aviv and its "imperialist backers" are becoming virulent. The USSR has threatened to take sanctions against Israel, and diplomatic moves in the UN are under way.



a strong Soviet effort to win approval of a resolution condemning Israel as an aggressor and perhaps a bid for UN sanctions against Tel Aviv. The Soviets remained determined throughout the Middle East conflict to avoid a confrontation with the West and to bring about a cease-fire.



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